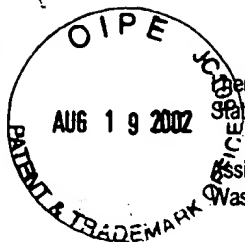


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On

By

Katie Zarzana

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: S-3-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

RONALD A. UNDERWOOD et al.

Application No.: 09/512,742

Filed: February 24, 2000

For: METHODS FOR
ELECTROSURGICAL TISSUE
CONTRACTION WITHIN THE SPINE

Examiner: Lee S. Cohen

Art Unit: 3739

RESPONSE

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed February 14, 2002, for which a response was due May 14, 2002. Applicant submits a request for 3 month extension thereby extending the time for response to August 14, 2002. Thus, this response is timely filed.